Good morning and thank you for coming today for an update on the Oct. 13 crude oil release from the Mid-Valley Pipeline. My name is Jeff Shields, I'm communications manager for Sunoco Logistics and acting as the public information officer on this response. representing the Unified Command, which consists of local, state and federal agencies working with the responsible party (Sunoco Logistics) on the response.

I'm here with Matt Harris, public information officer for the Louisiana State Police, which is the state coordinating agency for the incident and Bill Rhotenberry, the federal on-scene coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which is the federal coordinating agency. Also here is Sunoco Logistics incident commander for this event, Chad Arey.

Also actively overseeing our efforts on this response are the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator Office, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I would like to thank Sheriff Prator for providing the resources to ensure a safe cleanup operation

First of all, we regret that we have to be meeting here at all. I want to apologize to the people of Caddo Parish and Mooringsport for this incident, which we know has impacted your lives. We are very sorry for this intrusion in your neighborhood and for how it has impacted your lives. We will not leave here until we have fully cleaned up this oil and restored your land to its previous condition. You have our promise on that.

Most of you know the facts, but I will review them: On Monday, Oct. 13, just before 8 a.m. our pipeline control center in Sugar Land, Texas, noticed a dramatic drop in pressure and change in flow on the Mid-Valley Pipeline in Caddo Township – that usually indicates a serious problem with the pipeline. We shut down this section of the pipeline within two minutes and the entire Mid-Valley system, which runs from Longview, Texas, to Samaria, Michigan, in about 25 minutes.

Our personnel were dispatched to find the exact location of the spill, which we discovered about 11:45 a.m. between Old Mooringsport LaTex Road and Louisiana 169. Caddo Parish Sheriff's deputies were immediately on scene and have been an invaluable resource ever since.

Sunoco Logistics dispatched teams to place absorbent boom and containment boom in the Miller branch of Tete Bayou, and down the bayou to make sure that no oil reached Caddo Lake. The boom stopped free product about 300-400 yards south of the lake, down the road from where we are now. You will see photos of boom at the mouth of the lake – that is precautionary, we have set layers of boom to make sure no oil ever reaches the lake.

The next step was to start picking up oil, using skimmers that collect oil from the top of the water, vacuum trucks that take up oil directly, and absorbent boom and pads. We have now set up four collection points, after building some access roads in cooperation with local landowners. As we work with the other agencies, these are our goals:

We currently have approximately 250 people, including contractors and SXL, onsite.

Our original estimate was 4,000 barrels, which represented what we calculated as the maximum amount of oil that could have drained out of the pipeline. We say that the total amount is still undetermined. What we know is that we have recovered about 1,900 barrels thus far, or about 80,000 gallons, and will continue to update you on the amount we have recovered to date. That amount as of this morning is xx.

We have conducted continuous air monitoring under supervision of the environmental agencies. We have not detected levels that would pose a health risk to any residents; we have detected levels right at the cleanup sites that require our workers to wear appropriate personal protective gear, including respirators. We will continue air monitoring indefinitely until the regulatory agencies agree that it's not necessary.

We have counted a number of dead fish, crawfish, and some turtles, frogs and snakes. We have had one bird affected (a wood duck, in rehab) and no mammals.

As far as long term environmental impacts though Sunoco Logistics understand its obligations and will develop a restoration plan with guidance from the EPA, LADEQ, LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sunoco Logistics is responsible for all costs associated with the cleanup and remediation.

In terms of the pipe itself, we are removing and replacing the section of pipe that failed. The pipe is sent off to a third-party laboratory to determine the cause. We will corrective action based on that analysis and that we will perform a hydrostatic test to help ensure ongoing safe operation. Finally we will reduce operating pressure until we address any issues found through the investigation. All of that work will be coordinated with PHMSA who provides regulatory oversight. We are cooperating with PHMSA to ensure that future operations of the Mid-Valley pipeline are. We anticipate a return to service in the near future

At this point I will turn it over to the state police, which coordinates the activities all the state agencies working here:

HUNTERS -- We know that primitive weapon season opens today and we have asked hunters to avoid the area around Tete Bayou. We know the importance of hunting in Caddo Parish and we just want everyone to understand all the activity that is going on around here when they are hunting in the general area. We apologize to any hunters who have been displaced.

VOLUNTARY EVACUATIONS - Three families have voluntarily evacuated to local hotels, and we are trying to keep close contact with any resident who wants to be temporarily relocated. In many areas, the odor from the crude has dissipated as the cleanup efforts progress. We are working on establishing appropriate safety criteria that will allow those residents to return to their homes as soon as possible.

Deleted: we believe that we have recovered the bulk of the free oil. We

Deleted: , EPA can address that,

DEQ -- As far as fish/wildlife impacts so far, LDWF and USFWS staff have responded, along with contracted wildlife recovery teams who are collecting impacted species, and rehab'ing species as able. That data will continue to be collected and become part of a Natural Resource Damage Assessment process. That is the wildlife status report at this time.